Promoting Child Centered DRR (CCDRR)

Children and young people should be central to Disaster Risk Reduction

“Children are too often the victims of disasters, but they can also take a central role in identifying risks and sharing ideas for mitigating them.”

Why Disaster Risk Increases?

- Demographic change
- Unplanned urbanization
- Poorly maintained infrastructure
- Environmental degradation
- Climate change
- Poverty
- Epidemics
• Nepal is seventh in the world in the percentage of people exposed to floods per year
• and among the top 15 countries with people and Gross Domestic Product exposed to landslides triggered by precipitation or earthquake per year

Why Child-Centered DRR?
Introductory Quiz

- What is the age range of a child?
- Are children helpless victims of disasters?
- Does children have rights?
- Is child-centred DRR mainly about safeguarding children’s survival, well-being and rights in and after disasters?
- Does child-centred DRR mainly relate to the educational sector?
- Can – and should - children lead DRR?

The Fact!

“Every year, over 175 million children are affected by disasters, and this number is expected to multiply threefold over the next decade due to climate change, environmental degradation, poverty and population growth – the very least we owe them is to be ready.”
Demography

- Asia’s population is young
- Asia’s child population matter (in South Asia 614 million children – nearly 28% of the global total)
- Children typically represent 50-60% of those affected by disasters or related diseases
- Children affected by weather-related hazards: Late 1990s: 67 million per year Late 2010s: 175 million per year (Save the children, 2007)
- Children will feel the full force of climate change

New Children’s Charter 2011
a DRR action plan for children by children

1. Schools must be safe and education must not be interrupted
2. Child protection must be a priority before, during and after a disaster
3. Children have the right to participate and to access the information they need
4. Community infrastructure must be safe, and relief and reconstruction must help reduce risk
5. DRR must reach the most vulnerable
Why CCDRR?

- Globally, more than a billion students are enrolled in primary and secondary schools,...
  - with additional more than 75 million children out of formal education system....
  - and about 875 million school children living in high seismic zones and exposed to regular flood, landslide, and extreme wind and fire hazards.

- It is crucial that education initiatives reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized children and families include learning on DRR.

_HFA priority 3 emphasizes that the education sector is key to both risk reduction and preparedness. It is a top priority to promote DRR through schools and also to ensure that the schools are places where a greater number of children can learn in safety._

Children and Youth should be central to Disaster Risk Reduction

**Children are a vulnerable group:**

- Are overlooked in DRR programming and policy work, despite the fact that they make up 50 – 70 per cent of the population
- are often the largest group on the frontline of disasters, and suffer disproportionately; and are often perceived simply as victims.
- by helping children to take part in reducing local vulnerability, the impact of interventions can be maximized.
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- **Unregistered children** are invisible and may well be missed in disaster risk reduction planning.
  The first step reducing disaster risks in any society is knowing who is vulnerable; birth registration

- **Children are less fatalistic than adults.** Empowered children instinctively challenge the status quo and existing power relations. They won’t take ‘no’ for an answer and are passionate about turning ideas into action.

**Why CCDRR?**

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- **Children have a holistic perception of risks.** Children have a comprehensive approach to risk, whether from natural hazards, social and economic threats, or personal actions.

- **Children are effective communicators.** Children hold a pivotal position in many communities, thanks to up-to-date information from school, from new media and from information technologies.
  Studies shows that children are very persuasive about minimizing risks, especially among parents, siblings and peers.

**Why CCDRR?**
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- **Children can change behavior for more sustainable development.** Child-centred DRR can play a role in empowering young people to make informed choices and develop behavior that reorients their community towards more sustainable practices, reducing local vulnerability and increasing resilience.

- **Children are the leaders and decision makers of tomorrow.** Children involved in DRR today will become a new generation better prepared for disasters of tomorrow. Child-centred DRR embodies a long-term perspective.

**Ways Forward**

- Safeguard children’s rights through disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, so that the rights of most marginalized groups – girls, children with disability, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and ethnic minorities are promoted and protected.

- Governments should help civil society organisations to support more inter-generational dialogue in support of children’s rights, involving children, adults and elders.
**Ways Forward**

- Engage with children to enhance transparency and accountability of risk reduction and post disaster investments and the governance of risk management institutions.
- Support children’s participation in DRR decision making and action.
- Identify, support and cultivate interest among adults with high credibility or in powerful positions, who can encourage children’s participation and citizenship, and champion child-centred DRR.

**Involve children and Youth building communities resilience to Disaster**

- Children and young people have proved to be very effective advocates for changes to minimise the impact of disasters and contribute to their safety and that of their communities.
- Let us work to integrate their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation process of our emergency work; to increase recognition among international and national policy-makers, academia and the media of children’s and young people’s importance in risk reduction and the management of disasters.
Thank you for your attention!! 😊😊

Step Up

for

Disaster Risk Reduction

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